of this route covering several backward mandals, districts and villages and in view of the survey having been already completed by South-Central Railway, Secunderabad for this route from Secunderabad to Jagityal about 200 kms. covering backward villages, mandals of Gajwel, Siddipet, Sircilla, Vrmulawada, Jagityal etc., with an anticipated cost of Rs. 249.69 crores as estimates by South-Central Railway, Secunderabad; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The project is not included in the Budget.

Computerisation of unreserved ticketing system

2169. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to computerize the process of unreserved ticketing system from 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also in the process of making the existing train enquiry system as an integrated one either through telephone or internet;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all the reserved ticketing system in the country have been computerized; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The computerized Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) was first commissioned in New Delhi in August, 2002. Since then, it has already been commissioned at 158 locations on Indian Railways. An overall target of 300 UTS locations has been fixed for 2005-06. Ultimately, all the major stations of Indian Railways will be covered by computerized UTS.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Railways are setting up Integrated Train Enquiry System which will consist of both 'Interactive Voice Response System' (IVRS) and manual enquiry provisions for dissemination of train information as well as reservation related enquiry. This system has already been set up at Patna and Bangalore on trial basis. Based on its successful working, this is now going to be set up in all the telecom circles. Enquiry in an entire circle, will be possible by dialling common telephone number 139 without prefixing any STD code as and when the system is commissioned.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Indian Railways have commissioned computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) at 1222 locations covering over 96% of the reservation load. Balance of the reservation workload is covered through manual quotas at small stations.

Loss of Railways in parcel and catering business

2170. SHRI R. KAMARAJ:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways had suffered Rs. 700 crores loss in parcel services and over Rs. 400 crores in catering business last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more parcel trains would have to be run on long term lease over the next two months to increase the parcel loading capacity to 50 per-cent; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Parcel and catering services are not profitable on Indian Railways when fully distributed cost taking into account the haulage cost is adopted. However, Second Class, Luggage cum Brake Van (SLR) at either end of the train is considered essential safety requirement so as to protect the passengers in the unfortunate event of accident to train. Hence, haulage cost of SLR can at best be treated as